

This week's Council Newsletter is sent one last time from Kris Bloch's address in honor of her many years of dedication to this newsletter. Even though Kris retired earlier this week, her e-mail account just couldn't resist pressing send one more time. Thank you Kris!


July 1, 2016

City Council Newsletter



In this issue

- [Campbell Community Center Receives Award from the US Department of the Treasury](#)
- [Differing Messages Emerge on LED Streetlights](#)
- [Biocycle Farm Replanted for First Time](#)
- [City Highlights Youth Fitness and Sustainability Activities at Olympic Trials](#)
- [New Fiscal Year Brings New Goals for Public Works](#)
- [Council Links](#)

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Campbell Community Center Receives Award from the US Department of the Treasury

On June 16, 2016, City of Eugene Recreation's Campbell Community Center received the SPEC Director's Award from the US Department of the Treasury for providing free tax preparations and counseling for over 40 years in partnership with the AARP.



Campbell Community Center schedules appointments during tax season to help individuals with tax return preparation. This service is provided to anyone, regardless of income or age. During the rest of the year, the center also helps schedule appointments for people trying to solve problems with previous years' taxes. This service also has no eligibility restrictions.

Learn more about Campbell Community Center and take a virtual tour on their [website](#).

[TOP](#)



Differing Messages Emerge on LED Streetlights

Conflicting reports are shedding a new spotlight on light emitting diode (LED) streetlights, and Eugene civil engineers are paying attention. A [recent guidance statement](#) by the American Medical Association (AMA) argues blue-rich LED streetlights operate at a wavelength that suppresses melatonin during night and creates more nighttime glare than conventional lighting. However, the U.S. Department of Energy just [released an article](#) pointing out the issues are neither new nor restricted to LED technology.

The point of debate is the portion of the light in the "blue" spectrum, which the Department of Energy says can be roughly measured by correlated color temperature (CCT). Essentially, the lower the number the less "blue" light. However, at low CCTs, like the color of the conventional high pressure sodium bulbs, visibility can be distorted.

Public Works engineers just wrapped up a streetlight conversion project that led to the installation of nearly 5,000 LED fixtures, or about half of the City's streetlights. As with any new information, they're evaluating the statements from the AMA and the Department of Energy. Eugene engineers will also look into any new streetlight related research and monitor the reaction from cities across the country that also recently switched to LED lighting.

Part of the reasoning to replace the old bulbs came from a 2014 LED Streetlight Feasibility study. Engineers also looked at other cities that have recently moved to LED lights. They found people were more receptive to the neutral white lights that do contain some of the "blue" lighting.

Because LEDs are more efficient than the bulbs they're replacing, the streetlight replacement project is expected to save the City \$3.3 million in energy and maintenance costs over the next 20 years.

For more information on the LED streetlight program, contact [Patrick Cox](#) at 541-682-5331.

[TOP](#)





Biocycle Farm Replanted for First Time

Saplings are again sprouting at the Biocycle Farm, marking the start of another milestone at the 595-acre site. In the last week of May, contractors planted more than 34,000 hybrid poplar trees. They're replacing the farm's original trees, planted in 2004, which were harvested over the last three summers.

To establish growth, the new trees will be irrigated with recycled water from the wastewater facility plant throughout the summer. Poplar trees remain the plant of choice at the Biocycle Farm, mostly for their high nitrogen uptake rate and ability to utilize a lot of water.



Once harvested, the trees are turned into wood chips and sold for newsprint pulp and other items. The Biocycle Farm adds diversity, flexibility and stability to the biosolids program. The tree farm was developed in three stages and holds approximately 88,000 poplar trees.

For more information on the Biocycle Farm, which is operated by Eugene but owned by the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission, call Randy Gray, Residuals Supervisor, at 541-682-8660.

[TOP](#)



City Highlights Youth Fitness and Sustainability Activities at Olympic Trials

Few things bring people together like sport. Despite age, race, class, or gender, people from all walks of life find themselves united when experiencing athletic competitions. Such events provide a unique chance to convey broad social messages to large audiences.

The City of Eugene is excited to once again be an active partner of the 2016 Olympic Team Trials - Track and Field. City staff and volunteers will be furthering two of our community's important commitments – to youth fitness and to sustainability and responsible sport – at two City of Eugene booths. Both booths are in the free Festival area. Please drop by to play and learn with us!

We Can!

During the event, the City's Waste Prevention and Green Building Program will be presenting *We Can!*, a sustainability booth with education and outreach activities about renewable energy, waste reduction, and water conservation. *We Can!* showcases local investments in sustainability and supports community values and livability efforts such as inclusivity and access for all, sustainable economic development, and community and environmental health.



Among other engaging highlights, visitors to the *We Can!* booth will enjoy participating in the Sustainability Scavenger Hunt, featuring unique Eugene experiences, like visiting a Love Food Not Waste business, pedaling a power generating bicycle, and more. Scavenger Hunt participants will earn attractive commemorative medallions made from repurposed redwood from the Cuthbert Amphitheater.

The Starting Block

The *Starting Block* at the Olympic Trials was created as a Legacy Program in 2008 by the City of Eugene in partnership with Nike and TrackTown USA. This year the City and our partners TrackTown USA, Nike, Providence, University of Oregon, and USA Track & Field are proud to share a whole new experience at the Starting Block for festival attendees and especially the youth! Our goal is to inspire the community to pursue track as a lifelong health and fitness activity by offering authentic experiences which engage the heart and body, and educate the mind.



The beloved *Starting Block* celebrates the youth experience with two cornerstone activities - the Heptathlon and Track Fan – and four other activity areas to round out the site.

Both booths are located in the free Festival area with the *We Can!* booth near at the corner of 15th and Agate, across from the Hayward Field gates and the Starting Block on the turf fields just west of Hayward Field.

The City of Eugene is pleased and proud to be a partner with Track Town USA and others in these experiences at the 2016 Olympic Trials, and we look forward to sharing them with community members and the many visitors to our fair city.

For more information, contact [Colette Ramirez](#), Community Events Manager at 541-682-6347 or [Deveron Musgrave](#), Waste Prevention and Green Building Program Coordinator at 541-682-6842.

[TOP](#)



New Fiscal Year Brings New Goals for Public Works

With the start of the new fiscal year upon us, the Public Works Department is turning to its new strategic work plan. Released in late April, the [FY2017 Strategic Work Plan](#) (FY17 SWP) provides a blueprint for the coming year and includes specific goals and guidance for all six divisions.

Some of this year's objectives call for the implementation of the information technology services analysis, an enhanced employee safety and wellness program, and preparing for the future, specifically the 2021 IAAF Outdoor Track and Field World Championships.



The work plan provides a brief description of the major services areas for each section. Each division also described many new or ongoing efforts requiring significant resources during FY17 and identified trends that may affect the delivery of services. For more information on the work plan call or e-mail [Brian Richardson](#), Public Affairs Manager, at 541-682-5523.

[TOP](#)

Links to Eugene City Council Resources

[Mayor & City Council Webpage](#)



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